

**CASCADE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

P.O. Box 6146  
Great Falls, MT 59406  
(406) 761-6083

Exhibit No. 3Date 4-8-2015Bill No. HB 454

**RESOLUTION CENSURING STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
STEVE FITZPATRICK OF HD 20  
By the CASCADE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
MARCH 5, 2015**

WHEREAS, The Democrat Party and the MEA-MFT successfully urged their members to cast ballots in Republican primaries held in June 2014 for candidates they deemed to be the least likely to follow Republican principles;

WHEREAS, Democrat crossover voting provided the margin of victory in multiple legislative primary races in June 2014 and diluted the votes cast by Republican voters;

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2014, the State GOP Central Committee voted to amend the bylaws of the Montana Republican Party to assert the Party's desire to select its own candidates by closed primary elections;

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2015, the state GOP Central Committee in convention at Helena, Montana voted to join the lawsuit challenging Montana's open primary law;

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2015, Representative Steve Fitzpatrick introduced HB454;

WHEREAS, during floor debate two weeks later, in the Montana House of Representatives, HB454 Sponsor, Representative Steve Fitzpatrick, openly stated that the true purpose of the bill is to undermine the State GOP's lawsuit to close primary elections;

WHEREAS, HB454 will also remove the authority from the County Central Committees to select their Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen and places that authority in the hands of the State Chair and Central Committee;

WHEREAS, Representative Steve Fitzpatrick has undermined other Republicans on the House floor by exhibiting behavior unbecoming an elected public official.

CASCADE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1111 1st Street  
Astoria, OR 97103  
(503) 325-1000

RESOLUTION CONCERNING STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE PITTSBACH OF HD 30

By the CASCADE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2012

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party and the REPUBLICAN Party are the two major political parties in Cascade County and the only two parties that have candidates for the office of State Representative in the 30th District; and

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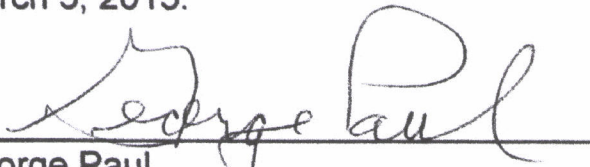
### BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

The Cascade County Republican Central Committee (CCRCC) hereby censures State Representative Steve Fitzpatrick for:

- failure to honor the platform of Montana State GOP,
- unbecoming public behavior at the Legislature,
- undermining the credibility of the CCRCC, and
- seeking to undermine the Montana Republican Party as a whole.

The Secretary of the CCRCC is hereby directed to distribute a copy of this Censure to every Republican Legislator in the State of Montana.

Authorized by a unanimous vote of the Cascade County Republican Central Committee Executive Board and by unanimous vote of the Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen in attendance during the meeting on March 5, 2015.



George Paul  
Chairman, Cascade County Republican Central Committee  
PO Box 6146  
Great Falls, MT 59405



Madam Chair and Members of the State Administration Committee:

HB454 *Revising how political party may select committee representatives for precincts* – is a whole lot more than just what the short title speaks says. It is nothing more than a bid by Rep. Fitzpatrick is to undermine the State GOP's lawsuit to close primary elections.

On June 21, 2014, the State GOP Central Committee voted to amend the bylaws of the Montana Republican Party to select candidates by closed primary elections. On January 10th of this year, at the GOP Central Committee convention in Helena, overwhelming support was expressed that the state organization should join the lawsuit to challenge the state's open primary law.

After HB454 was introduced and assigned to the House State Administration committee, my husband spoke with Rep. Fitzpatrick and asked him what the purpose of the bill was; to which Rep. Fitzpatrick replied, "Don't worry it's just to clean up some language."

I guess whenever a politician tells you not to worry, that should be a huge red flag! We knew that HB454 would allow a close-knit group to control positions in the political process so they can manipulate events in their own selfish interest. A small minority, at the highest level of each party will hold the most power over who gets into their "good o'l boy" network. We knew that if this bill passes, it would forever change the political process for electing Precinct Captains at the grassroots level; and we opposed this bill.

February 20<sup>th</sup> the hearing on HB454 was before the State Administration committee. Again, Rep. Fitzpatrick never shared the true intent of this. Under questioning he assured the committee that it was to *clean up language*. Consequently, it passed in that committee 11-9; with full support of all of the Democrats and only two Republicans on that committee.

When it reached the House floor for second reading, Rep. Fitzpatrick was finally asked what the true intent of his bill was -- and he was finally truthful. He fully explained how this bill sets the framework to prevent the lawsuit by the State GOP from going forward. To which, one of the members of the committee who heard the bill -- objected to because it had never been brought up in Committee.

How convenient. HB454 passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – again with all of the Democrats voting FOR the bill and a few Republicans joining their ranks and the bill passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 54 to 45.

Third reading was February 26<sup>th</sup> and the outcome of that vote was 53 to 46.

I strongly urge you to watch or listen to the floor session on February 25<sup>th</sup> before making executive decision on this bill. Sadly, this was where the true intent of this bill was revealed. Information was never provided to any of the constituents who contacted Rep. Fitzpatrick. In fact, it was never revealed to anyone on the Cascade County Republican Central Committee!

I am the Precinct Captain for HD26A and also serve on the Executive Board as Secretary for the CCRCC. Please know – NOT ONE MEMBER OF OUR CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT THIS BILL BY THE SPONSOR. In fact, even his own precinct captains from HD20A were deliberately miss-lead.

Consequently, the CCRCC took action to Censure Rep. Fitzpatrick. I have a copy of that censure document supporting my statements here today. I believe that Rep. Fitzpatrick's true intent was to stop the lawsuit – but the collateral damage is that all 56 counties and both parties will forever be changed and will no longer have the ability to elect their precinct captains but leave it in the hands of the power elite of their own political party.

I urge you to oppose HB454.

Judy Tankink, Great Falls

